☞ The Rev. EDWARD N. KIRK, of Boston, is at present in England, where he has been passing himself off as a consistent and uncompromising friend of the slave! Several years ago, he professed to be an abolitionist, and spoke from the platform of the American Anti-Slavery Society, and 'ran well for a time.' But it proved to be only a sentimental spasm. Soon afterward, he came to Boston, and ignored all connection with the anti-slavery movement. Where he stands, in feeling and sentiment, on the great question of the age, the following extracts from his Sermon on the death of DANIEL WEBSTER strongly testify. We hope they will be noted on the other side of the Atlantic, that the friends of the slave in England, who have given Mr. KIRK their confidence as an abolitionist, may see how shamefully they have been imposed upon. The following communication was received some time ago, but is none the less pertinent at the present time—the writer having left his name with us, to authenticate his statements.

## CLERICAL APOSTACY AND PROFLIGACY.

E. N. KIRK, pastor of the Mount Vernon Church, in Boston, has preached a sermon on the death of DANIEL WEBSTER, which has been published at the request of the young men of the Mount Vernon Association. It goes further in eulogy of Mr. Webster than any thing I have seen from any other source. And when it is remembered, that Mr. Kirk was an anti-slavery lecturer — years since, at the time of his residence in Albany, it is quite remarkable that he should now enter the lists with the Deweys and the Choates in commending Daniel Webster to young men as a model worthy their imitation. His text is a passage in the 45th chapter of Isaiah: 'I am the Lord, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness.' On this he says:—

1. *The American people should gratefully acknowledge Daniel Webster as a gift from God.* (!!!)

That his endowments were eminent, the civilized world admits. They were qualities of the very highest order, and of an extraordinary combination. I am sustained by competent authority in saying, that he excelled his fellows in two departments, at least; in only one of which do the greatest often excel. Edmund Burke was an eloquent expounder of political principles; Henry Brougham is a great jurist; but Daniel Webster walked in the loftiest paths, both of legal and political science: nay, was a ruling spirit in the upper spheres of law and politics. Webster had not only sagacity and judgment, but he also brought to the whole subject of man's social life, of the organization of States, and the complicated, profound and vast principles which they involve, a vision of extraordinary clearness and comprehensiveness, an uncommon soundness of judgment, a *true* heart. . . . Mr. Webster's judgment was solid and practical. He was a philosopher, not dealing in questions remote from real life, but searching the principles of human society and human rights and duties, *law, justice* and *liberty*, to their very foundations. . . . . He was a great light in our heavens. But the Lord formed him, formed him what he was, (!!) and trained him by his own wonderful processes. . . . . The services Mr. Webster has rendered to this country, and to mankind, must be acknowledged to be *priceless*. This is not the place to give them their full prominence. But it is appropriate to this place to say so much as shall awaken in our hearts a deep sense of indebtedness to our heavenly Father for the bestowment of this gift. . . . But it is preëminently as a statesman that he has earned a debt of gratitude too vast for us ever to repay. We know not the pilot who could have marked the course *for Freedom's barque*, had he not done it. (!) . . . God, who raised up Solomon for Israel, *raised up our Daniel for the United States.* (!!!) He has mapped the chart for us, and left the simpler task of steering to honest and wakeful helmsmen. We may remain *E Pluribus Unum* now, if we know the worth of that motto. . . . . *God bless his fragrant memory! God be praised for him and his work!* It was great, it was noble, among the greatest, the noblest of political achievements.

2. *The people of America are called to recognize the hand of God in the removal of our Chieftain.* 'I the Lord create darkness.' And it is dark, very dark. We feel it. We look with fear on your little ambitious statesmen, that are advertising themselves for the great posts of power; we feel a sickness at heart when we think of the silence that reigns at Marshfield (!!) We look ahead; and it is dark, very dark. Fishery-questions, boundary-questions, frontier difficulties, nullification? who is to meet them? Who is to negotiate for us? who is to breast the waves, and scatter them in spray? The rock of Marshfield is removed! Yes; but God did it. Since Washington left us, we have never been so tempted to lean on the arm of flesh, as in this case. And God, in mercy, has broken the snare. (!!) Webster still lives; but we can no longer pray to him, (!!) instead of the God of heaven, if we have heretofore done so. . . .

The interest awakened in our country by this death is invaluable. The suspension of business, the vast attendance at the funeral, the public meetings, the great space of the newspapers occupied by it, *is all good.* (!!) *The tears shed since last Sunday* have watered the roots of *precious plants.* (!!!) . . . . While Mr. Webster lived, we hardly knew how much we felt alike about him. Now, there is one common sigh swelling the heart of America. . . . His *genuine patriotism* will now be more fully estimated by us, and more impressive as an example. Envy and detraction will be silent. His *whole career* will manifest the purity and strength of *his patriotism.* (!!!) He was never a tactician; he never stooped to be the people's man; he was no proclaimer of his own patriotism; not an orator with honeyed words; *not* a brawler about the people's rights; but an honest lover of his country, and of *all the people that are in it;* an enlightened lover, that knew where our true interests lie; that would sacrifice *our favor, if* that was the price of telling us the truth. He rode on no hobby for the sake of gaining him favorer votes. Principles, *eternal principles; truth and justice* ever secured his delighted attention, and occupied *his thoughts.* (!!) He understood the fundamental principles of our Constitution, in their relations to ourselves, and to *the great human family.* (!!) The warmest affections of *his heart and the strength of* his mind were devoted to the maintenance and application of those principles. It is a cheering fact, that the Duke of Wellington and Daniel Webster are the two most admired men of this age; (!!) and that both of them made the interests of their country their pole-star. The grandeur of true *patriotism, as illustrated in his* course, will now be brought before the eyes of our young men; and they will see it in glorious contrast with the petty self-seeking that so frequently disgraces political life. . . .

Fellow-citizens, God hath done this, *to make us weep.* (!!)

The death of Mr. Webster will increase men's *respect for the Bible.* (!!) He is acknowledged to be a great man, a wise man; a scholar, a learned man; a man thoroughly acquainted with the world; that is, a man of practical sense. But it will soon be seen by the world, that *his reverence for the Bible,* founded on a most intimate *study of it, was very great.* German philosophers appear very wise; and so do some of their American imitators. Many young men regard it as a badge of superior sense to despise the Bible. The views of Mr. Webster will save many of them from that snare.

So speaks E. N. Kirk in his Sermon on the Death of Daniel Webster. As a proper commentary on this fulsome and false adulation, I will now relate a conversation I had with Mr. Kirk some six years ago. I called on him in his study, and we had a familiar talk on the subject of slavery. Mr. Kirk showed me several written lectures which he had publicly given in the State of New York *against slavery.* He expressed great interest in the anti-slavery cause, and, wishing to join with me in prayer before I left, he prayed very fervently for the slave. He said he once asked Amos Lawrence, an intimate friend of Mr. Webster, why the American people did not rally for freedom, under the leadership of Daniel Webster, and destroy the Slave Power. The reply was in substance as follows: 'There are three reasons why Mr. Webster can never lead the people in the path of freedom. The first is his profligate pecuniary habits. These destroy his moral power, make him dependent upon moneyed men, and exercise a ruinous influence on very many young men, who revere Daniel Webster, and make him a model in the conduct of their own life. The second reason is, his intemperate habits, which are of such a nature as unfit him for the office of a moral leader. The third is, his licentious habits, which still further impair his moral power, and render any confidence in him as a leader impossible.' If you publish this article, please send a copy of the paper containing it to Mr. Kirk, and he will then be able to correct any mistake into which I may have fallen respecting that conversation. But I am very confident I have represented it with perfect fairness. Well, then, two things are shown by this reminiscence of the past. First, it thus appears that Mr. Kirk knew what Mr. Webster's private character was; and he eulogises this profligate, intemperate and licentious man in the highest strain, and holds him up as a pattern to the young men of his congregation, when, by his own professed creed, if they follow the example held out to them, they will be irretrievably and forever ruined. It is thus also made to appear, that some remarkable distemper has attacked the moral vision of Mr. Kirk. Whether it be love of popularity, or a bitter hatred of the anti-slavery enterprise, through the overpowering influence of which he is enabled to behold in Daniel Webster a saint, since his 'Seventh of March Speech,' or what it is, I leave each reader to determine for himself.

How heartless and false the religious character of the American priesthood, as revealed in the general and idolatrous adulation by them bestowed upon the recreant and unholy Daniel Webster!

Yours, for the truth to the living and the dead,

WM. LLOYD GARRISON.

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